

Exodus 20:8-11 - Thursday, January 29th, 2009

- At our study last week, we ended in the 7th verse with the 3rd commandment, and tonight will begin in verse 8 with commandment #4.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

- This fourth commandment is the source of much debate and even controversy requiring a much needed clarification and understanding.
- We'll take a little bit of time on this one for a number of reasons, not the least of which is, we meet in a Sabbath observing SDA church.
- In addition to this, by way of personal testimony, I was raised in and even baptized in the Seventh Day Adventist church.

- In an effort to resolve this hotly debated commandment, I would like to answer, from the Bible, questions regarding the Sabbath day.

- Question #1: Are Christians today, required to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy?"

- Answer: Christians are not under any obligation to observe the 7th day as a day of worship because Jesus fulfills the Sabbath.

Colossians 2:16-17 16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. NIV

- Question #2: How does Jesus fulfill the Sabbath?

- Answer: The Sabbath rest from work, points to, and is fulfilled by salvation in Jesus, as opposed to salvation by works.

- In other words, we rest knowing that we don't have to work for our salvation, because we enter in to our Sabbath-rest because of Jesus.

Hebrews 4:9-11 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. NIV

- Question #3: Shouldn't we still have a day of rest?

- Answer: Yes, I believe that we should work six days, and have a Sabbath day of rest because that's how God created us and wired us.

Mark 2:27-28 27 And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. KJV

"He who idles his time away in the six days is equally culpable in the sight of God as he who works on the seventh."

Adam Clarke

- Question #4: Why do we worship on Sunday and not Saturday?

- Answer: There are a number of reasons we worship on Sunday, not the least of which is that it is the day of Jesus' resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-6 1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. NIV

- In addition to Jesus rising from the dead on the first day of the week, He also made appearances to the disciples on Sunday.

John 20:19-20 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. NIV

- Also, and perhaps more importantly, the early church met on Sunday and not on Saturday.

Acts 20:7 7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. NIV

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. NIV

- Question #5: Why wouldn't this commandment be like the rest?

- Answer: The fourth commandment is the only one not reiterated in the New Testament.





ONLY 9 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS ARE REITERATED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- 1) To worship the Lord God only (1st commandment): no less than 50 times
- 2) Idolatry (2nd commandment): condemned 12 times
- 3) Profanity (3rd commandment): condemned 4 times
- 4) Honoring parents (5th commandment) is taught 6 times
- 5) Murder (6th commandment) condemned 6 times
- 6) Adultery (7th commandment) condemned 12 times
- 7) Theft (8th commandment) condemned 4 times
- 8) False Witness (9th commandment) condemned 4 times
- 9) Covetousness (10th commandment) condemned 9 times

WHEN THE NEW TESTAMENT LISTS SINS, SABBATH BREAKING IS ABSENT

In Mark 7:21-22 13 sins are listed. Jesus did not mention breaking the Sabbath.
In Romans 1:29-32 20 sins are listed and not one of them is Sabbath breaking.
In Galatians 5:19-21 a list of 15 sins are given, and again, breaking the Sabbath isn't mentioned.
In 2 Timothy 3:1-4 there's a list of 18 sins, not once is Sabbath breaking mentioned.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOESN'T TEACH THAT THIS COMMANDMENT IS TO BE OBSERVED

-  Jesus does not mention it in His Sermon on the Mount or in any of His teachings.
-  Jesus does not once command Sabbath keeping, and is accused of Sabbath breaking.
-  None of the Apostles command Sabbath keeping.
-  The Jerusalem counsel doesn't command Sabbath keeping or condemn Sabbath breaking? (Acts 15)

IT WAS TO BE OBSERVED AS A SIGN IN THE OLD COVENANT - Exodus 31:13, 16-17

| COVENANT | PROMISE | CONDITION | SIGN |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Noahic | Never flood again | Righteousness | Rainbow |
| Abrahamic | A great nation | Faith | Circumcision |
| Mosaic | A chosen people | Obedience | Sabbath (Law) |

- Question #6: What about those who worship on Saturday's?

- Answer: I believe that those who worship on Saturday's can still be our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Romans 14:5-7 5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. NIV

The Sabbath of the 4th commandment that God gave to Israel was of a totally different nature. It included the curse of sin, "six days shall you labor", and also the command to "remember" the Sabbath Rest that they had forfeited by their grumbling and complaining against God's provision for them as they began their desert wanderings. Because Israel rejected God's provision, the curse of sin remained upon them. Only instead of laboring seven days of the week as in slavery, now they were commanded to cease their work every 7th day – the day on which the original Sabbath began – and to meditate on the blessings of that Sabbath, and what they could have enjoyed, had they not rebelled. God intended to take them to a land "flowing with milk and honey", where He would protect them from all enemies, where their clothes would not wear out, where disease would not touch them, and where He planned to restore to them the amenities that Adam had lost. But sin made it impossible for them to experience the Sabbath of creation. What they got at Sinai, was only a symbol of the original Sabbath. That is why the Jews, who stopped all labor on the 7th day of the week, were told in Hebrews 3:15-19 that they still failed to enter into God's true Sabbath rest. The Sabbath of creation was not limited to a day. It was and remains, a life style of trusting fully in God's total provision and relying on Him and on Him alone by faith, every day of every week."

J. Mark Martin, Calvary Chapel Pastor, Calvary Community Church, Phoenix Arizona, <http://www.graceupongrace.org>